Read again letter from Mr. J. COLLINS, late Civil Engineer to the Travancore and Cochin Governments, dated 11th September last, and recorded in Proceedings of the 28th idem.

No. 67. Read also the following letter from F. N. MALTBY, Esq., Resident of Travancore and Cochin; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 15th October 1861.

I have had the honor of receiving through the Assistant Resident in charge, the Order of Government, dated the 6th September 1861, on the petition of Mr. Collins, late Engineer in the service of their Highnesses the Rajahs of Travancore and Cochin, embodying a Minute by His Excellency the Governor on the subject of the position of the British Resident in those States, and also of receiving the Order of Government of the 28th September.

2. I am glad to take this opportunity of laying before the Government a statement of the circumstances under which Mr. Collins' dismissal took place, as it has been very much misrepresented by Mr. Collins in the Memorials which I have thus had the opportunity of perusing.

3. Mr. Collins' dismissal has arisen not from any single act but from a long course of insubordination and obstructiveness by which the interests of their Highnesses have severely suffered.

4. Mr. Collins first evinced the spirit which has proved him so unfit for his post by appealing to me as Resident against the authority of the Dewan of whom, or of whose whims, as Mr. Collins expressed it, he wished to be made independent. I had to explain his position to him and also to state that in the instance of which he complained the conduct of the Dewan had been judiciously exercised.

5. Shortly after this Mr. Collins was guilty of grossly insulting the Officers Commanding His Highness' Nayar Brigade and the Durbar Physician acting as Trustees of the Church of Trevandrum, Mr. Collins declaring that unless seats in the Church were allotted to him as he thought right, he would take possession of those of the Trustees. Mr. Collins evidently thought that there was no person who could control his actions and it devolved upon me to explain to him that it was as necessary that discipline should be maintained in the service of His Highness the Rajah as in any branch of the Indian Service, and that any act which would cause the dismissal of an Officer of the British Service would render it my duty to advise His Highness the Rajah to dispense with his services. Mr. Collins withdrew the threat and afterwards apologised to the Officers above named, but the whole correspondence was of a most unsatisfactory character.

6. I had again to exercise my authority in a very painful manner on the occasion of Mr. Collins throwing Mrs. Collins' Ayah out of the boat, into the middle of the backwater for losing her Mistress' key. In this case, after a correspondence, Mr. Collins was only allowed to remain in the service on his stating in writing that he clearly understood that an unjustifiable assault on one of the inhabitants of the State would be a ground of dismissal from the Service, and that if dismissed for good and sufficient reason he could have no claim for pay from the date of dismissal. The latter clause was added because Mr. Collins appeared to think that however his dismissal might be brought about he could claim his salary for five years.

7. The terms of his engagement obviously required from Mr. Collins that the duties of his office should be faithfully fulfilled and that the rules of the Service which he found in force should be obeyed. But Mr. Collins' neglect of duty and disobedience of orders have been repeated, and I regret to say that the Rajahs have not received an equivalent for more than a year's salary paid to Mr. Collins.

8. One of the earliest instructions given to Mr. Collins was to draw up some plain rules and forms of accounts for his department founded on the Bengal Code, to which Mr. Collins had been used, to be submitted for the consideration of the Resident and Dewan. This Mr. Collins has never done, while Major Greenaway who joined about a month ago has already done so.

9. One of the few instructions given to Mr. Collins was to submit monthly a concise report of the working of his department. He has failed to do so. These reports were to be submitted to the Dewan, a copy being sent to the Resident; and the calls for these are what Mr Collins terms "the Resident's harassing and continual demands for reports and information."

10. It is, I am satisfied, unnecessary for me to continue, as I could easily do, this list of obstructions thrown by Mr. Collins in the way of the service which he was paid to promote. I shall only allude to one more instance because it is brought forward by Mr. Collins himself.

11. His Highness the Rajah desiring to perpetuate the memory of the late General Munro had resolved upon the erection of stone columns bearing lights to guide the vessels on the Back-water to bear the General's name. Mr. Collins was called upon to furnish a plan of a suitable column. Mr. Collins suggested the substitution for stone of cast-iron pillars resting on granite pedestals. The Dewan asked my opinion and I said that as one of the objects sought was to afford a prominent land mark by day, the stone columns would be more suitable and they would be cheaper than the cast-iron. In this the Rajah and Dewan both entirely concurred, but Mr. Collins has not obeyed the call of the Dewan and my own, to submit plans and estimates of these simple works and a year has been lost.

12. One of the rules distinctly prescribed for English Officers in the service of the Rajahs is that when they address the Native Government direct, they should send copies to the Resident. Mr. Collins was made aware of this rule but latterly disobeyed it deliberately.

13. Mr. Collins speaks of instructions given directly by the Resident to his Assistant Mr. D'Albedyhll. The case referred to is, I conceive, the following: In consequence of the increasing famine I prepared a Memorandum (since submitted to Government) suggesting the manner in which the public works might best be made useful to the people. Mr. Collins had at that time proceeded to Cochin, leaving Mr. D'Albedyhll in charge of the works in Travancore. I sent the Memorandum to the Dewan requesting that if the Travancore Government concurred in the measures proposed, the Memorandum should, in order to prevent delay, be forwarded to Mr. D'Albedyhll with instructions from him to carry out the arrangements. The Government concurred and the Memorandum was forwarded to Mr. D'Albedyhll. A copy of it was sent by me to Mr. Collins.

14. It was obviously Mr. Collins' duty in obedience to the wishes of his employers and in behalf of humanity to co-operate cordially in these measures.

15. The circumstance which finally led to Mr. Collins' removal was as follows: On returning to Trevandrum, I went to inspect a road which the Rajah had sanctioned at my request and the execution of which had been entrusted to Mr. Collins' department. Mr. Collins was in Cochin, and as Mr. D'Albedyhll the Assistant Engineer was ill, I was attended by the Superintendent. I found the road to be of little use for carriages in consequence of the steepness of the slopes and absence of walls, and an embankment through paddy fields was giving way from the inadequacy of the slopes. I told the Superintendent that for the safety of the public the walls should be built and the slope of the embankment increased and that he should at once draw up a paper shewing the expense required. I wrote officially to Mr. D'Albedyhll requesting that the work might at once be executed, and said that I would speak to the Dewan to sanction the necessary outlay.

16. It was on this that Mr. Collins wrote from Cochin that the work was not to be executed till Mr. D'Albedyhll had reported to him whether he considered it necessary, threatening the Superintendent with removal for attending the Resident and giving him information, and saying that these instructions were to supersede those of the Resident.

17. It was upon this that I recommended that Mr. Collins' further services should be dispensed with. But had I not done so on this ground, I should have had to do so on others. I was, when this letter came to my knowledge, in company with the Dewan, visiting the canal works, and the state of affairs there and loss of public money in consequence of Mr. Collins' neglect to hold proper supervision or give proper instructions to his inexperienced Assistant would have rendered the step unavoidable.

18. I regret to have to record these circumstances. Mr. Collins' infirmity of temper disqualified him for the duties which he undertook and they have not been discharged. He has no claim whatever upon the Rajahs' but on the other hand they might show strong claims against him for wasted resources and still more for wasted time. That no unreasonable demands were made on Mr. Collins is fully proved by what has been done by his successors since his removal especially in the case of the Shoranoor bridge.

19. Mr. Collins' claim for payment till the date of making over charge is utterly untenable. When informed by the Dewan that the Rajah dispensed with his further services he refused to make over charge, and wrote that he had placed the matter in the hands of his lawyers; and he now claims pay for two months during a large portion of which he was residing, as he had been for some time before, out of the Rajah's territories without leave in British Cochin. The delay in making over charge was Mr. Collins' own act.

20. As to his claim to travelling allowance this is equally untenable. The Sirkar according to agreement is prepared to pay Mr. Collins his travelling allowance while travelling, but not while residing at head quarters in a house furnished rent free by the Sirkar.

21. It only remains, that I should state for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, that it is always my endeavour to withdraw as much as possible from direct interference, and to encourage the Native Governments to manage their own affairs. But both the Native Governments, and the English Officers in their service look to the Resident as the chief adviser and director in matters in which Englishmen are concerned. The exact line of action cannot easily be laid down, but the views of His Excellency will be carefully kept in mind.

No. 68. ORDER THEREON, 28th October 1861, No. 475.

Resolved that the Memorial submitted with Mr. Collins' letter of the 11th September last be forwarded to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, together with a copy of the Resident's report on the allegations it contains, respecting his undue interference with the Memorialist in the performance of his duties.

2. The Government are perfectly satisfied with Mr. Maltby's explanation, and are of opinion that, under the circumstances represented by him, Mr. Collins' claim to the payment of his salary to the date of making over charge, and also to travelling allowance, is wholly untenable, and that he is not entitled to any consideration from the Travancore and Cochin Governments, whose interests he has so grossly neglected.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Read the following Memorial:—

No. 69. To the Right Honorable the Secretary of State in Council for India.

The humble petition of GUNSHAM DOSS, of Sallay Street, in the Black Town of Madras, Soucar.

SHEWETH,

That your Petitioner on or about the 29th day of September 1858 filed a Declaration in the Supreme Court of Judicature at Madras, claiming to be a Creditor of the late Nabob of the Carnatic, and agreeing to accept payment of the amount due to him as such Creditor under the provisions of Act No. 30 of 1858.

That your Petitioner afterwards filed particulars of his claim against the said Nabob's Estate in the Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court, and delivered a copy of such particulars to the Government Solicitor.